[Translation]

Construction of Doordarshan Relay Centres in U.P.

3724. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of Doordarshan Kendras at Almorah at Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh has been completed;

(b) whether the telecast of programmes from the newly constructed Low Power Transmitters at Didihat, Jorasis, Ranikhet, Dharchula etc. is stopped; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) While a Low Power TV transmitters (LPT) at Pithoragarh and a Very Low Power TV transmitter (VLPT) at Almora are already operational, a scheme is presently under implementation to replace the existing VLPT at Almora by an LPT.

(b) and (c) Though all the TV transmitters in Almora and Pithoragarh districts, except the VLPT at Didihat, are functioning normally, regular transmission from the VLPT, Didihat has been temporarily affected due to power supply failure.

[English]

Foreign and Domestic Private T.V. Telecast Channels

3725. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have evolved any regulatory authority on foreign and domestic private T.V. telecast channels operating in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) fee/commission, if any, which Government collects from these telecast channels; and

(d) the basis for fixation of such fee/commission?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Government have already introduced the Broadcasting Bill in the Parliament which provides for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India, for the purposes of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India including foreign and domestic private TV channels. The Bill is at present under the consideration of Joint Parliamentary Committee.

(c) These would be determined by the Broadcasting Authority of India as and when it is set up.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Steel by SAIL

3726. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the export of steel by SAIL during 1996-97 and 1997-98 upto June, 1997;

(b) the steps taken by SAIL to increase the profit;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve customer orientation and quality, improve asset utilisation and increase in export of SAIL;

(d) whether the delay in the commissioning of hot strip mill at Bokaro has affected the production performance of SAIL; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to complete it early?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) During 1996-97, SAIL exported 4.79 lakh tonnes of Steel while in 1997-98, up to June, 1997, 2 lakh tonnes of Steel and about 60,000 tonnes of Pig Iron were exported.

(b) and (c) SAIL is taking steps on a continuous basis to improve its performance, which include modernisation and technological upgradation of its plants, improving techno-economic factors i.e. reduction in coke rate, energy consumption, metallic input, improvement in yield, captive power generation, extensive customer contact, market oriented product-mix, improvement in quality, long term relationship with customers, leadership in service and customer satisfaction, strict control and monitoring of operating costs, higher productivity and greater autonomy to field officers, etc. Besides, to increase exports, SAIL has adopted steps that include consistent export, sustained presence in identified market segments, value added exports, improved market intelligence, appointment of consignment agents overseas and development of warehousing and handling facilities etc.

(d) and (e) While the delay in carrying out modernisation jobs on the Hot Strip Mill (HSM) at Bokaro has affected the production performance, SAIL is taking steps to complete the HSM which include regular monitoring and coordination with the contracting agencies; providing necessary shut downs for execution; help in speeding up the supply of equipment and providing all necessary assistance to the contracting agencies etc.

Tariff Policies

3727. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tariff Policies of the Department of Telecom are to be revised;